

CARE AND FEEDING OF A PORTAPACK:

THERE ARE 3 BASIC ELEMENTS TO THE VIDEO RECORDER (PORTAPACK):

1) THE DECK, 2) THE CAMERA AND 3) A POWER SUPPLY (A POWER SUPPLY MAY BE EITHER A BATTERY OR AN A.C. (HOUSE POWER) ADAPTOR).

THE CAMERA AND POWER CONNECTORS ARE RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE DECK. TO PLUG IN THE CAMERA, LINE UP THE GUIDES ON THE CONNECTORS AND PUSH IN THE CONNECTOR AS FAR AS IT WILL GO. THEN TURN THE METAL SLEEVE TO THE RIGHT TO LOCK THE CONNECTOR INTO PLACE. TO CONNECT THE POWER; FIRST MAKE SURE THE DECK IS IN THE "STOP" POSITION, THEN LINE UP THE GUIDES ON THE CONNECTOR. (THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT AS THE DECK CAN BE DAMAGED IF THE PLUG IS PUT IN THE WRONG WAY) AND PUSH IN THE PLUG AS FAR AS IT WILL GO. IF YOU'RE USING A BATTERY FOR A POWER SUPPLY, PUSH THE "RECORD" LEVER TO THE LEFT AND WATCH THE BATTERY METER TO BE SURE THE NEEDLE SWINGS INTO THE SILVER AREA. IF IT STAYS IN THE RED AREA THE BATTERY CANNOT BE USED. IF YOU ARE USING AN A.C. ADAPTOR, BE SURE IT IS PLUGGED IN TO THE WALL AND TURNED ON. CHECK TO SEE THAT THE "TV/CAMERA" SWITCH IS IN THE "CAMERA" POSITION.

IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO USE A MICROPHONE, PLUG IT INTO THE JACK MARKED "MIC". BE SURE YOU DON'T PLUG IT INTO THE "EARPHONE" JACK BY MISTEAK. NOW,

1) THREAD THE TAPE; CHECK THE DIAGRAM INSIDE THE DECK COVER TO BE SURE THE TAPE IS IN THE RIGHT PLACES ALL THE WAY AROUND.

2) RUN THE TAPE FORWARD A FEW FEET AND STOP IT (THIS IS SO YOU WON'T RECORD IN THE FIRST FEW FEET OF THE TAPE THAT IS USUALLY NOT IN VERY GOOD SHAPE)

3) PUSH THE BUTTON ON THE TIMER TO "ZERO" IT.

4) PUT THE DECK IN "RECORD" ("RECORD" AND "FORWARD" LEVERS) AND

(cont) IF THE TAPE BEGINS MOVING, SQUEEZE THE CAMERA TRIGGER TO STOP IT - YOU'RE NOT READY TO RECORD YET.

5) OPEN THE "F" STOP RING ON THE CAMERA, ZOOM AND FOCUS UNTIL YOU HAVE A SHARP PICTURE IN THE VIEWFINDER THEN ROLL THE TAPE (SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER) FOR ABOUT 30 SECONDS TO MAKE A TEST RECORDING.

6) STOP THE TAPE, CLOSE THE LENS AND REWIND THE TAPE. PLAY IT BACK (INTO THE CAMERA VIEWFINDER OR INTO A TV SET USING THE R.F. CONNECTOR THAT HOOKS INTO THE BACK OF THE DECK AND THEN ON THE V.H.F. TERMINALS OF YOUR T.V. SET. DECK WORKS ON CHANNEL 4, CHECK YOUR FINE TUNING) TO BE SURE THE SYSTEM IS WORKING. IF YOU GET A PICTURE AND SOUND, YOU ARE READY TO RECORD. IF YOU GET "SNOW" AND SOUND TAKE THE TAPE OFF AND CLEAN THE VIDEO HEADS WITH SPRAY, THEN REPEAT FROM STEP 5 ABOVE. IF THE SAME THING HAPPENS, CLEAN THE HEADS AGAIN BUT BE SURE NOT TO SPRAY FOR MORE THEN 10 SECONDS AT A TIME (THE HEADS FREEZE AND CAN BE DAMAGED). AFTER YOU HAVE MADE A GOOD TEST RECORDING YOU'RE READY TO RECORD YOUR TAPE. BEFORE YOU START, HOWEVER, CLOSE THE LENS AND RECORD ABOUT 10 SECONDS OF "BLACK", WHICH WILL HELP IDENTIFY THE BEGINNING OF YOUR PROGRAM. (DON'T BACK THE TAPE UP AFTER YOU HAVE RECORDED BLACK HOWEVER.

POPULAR MISTAKES WITH THE PORTAPACK INCLUDE: Misthreading; wrong side of first lever; wrong side of audio head guide; wrong side of capstan- check the diagram carefully if you're not sure Shooting in to the light; subject darker than background - try to keep the camera's back to the light (open windows, sunlight, special lights, etc.) for best results..

Bad Sound; Improper or no use of hand microphone- where sound is important use the hand mic and try to get it as close as possible to the subject.

~~Good Luck and Have Fun~~